

ANTI-SLAVERY REPORTER

UNDER THE SANCTION OF
THE BRITISH AND FOREIGN ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY.

Vol. 19, No. 4.

OCTOBER 1, 1874.

{ Price 3^d. Stamped.
Threepence Unstamped.



BONGO VILLAGE NEAR GEER.

THROUGH the kind permission of Messrs. Sampson Low and Co., the publishers of Dr. Schweinfurth's "Heart of Africa," we are enabled to present our readers with an engraving from that work, representing African village life of the Bongo, a tribe situated in the Nile basin between latitude 5° to 8° North, and longitude 30° to 35° West. "The huts and granaries are built round an immense butter-tree. On the left is a memorial grave, in the foreground are

three Bongo women in attitudes in which they may frequently be observed, the sitting figure having a child suspended from her back in a leathern bag. All round the village are sereh fields, with their crops standing some twelve feet high, whilst the harp-shaped frames for drying the sesame rise up conspicuously above them."

Villages and village life may thus be met with throughout vast districts where the slave-hunter has not carried on his devas-

tating work. Were the people permitted to remain unmolested by the traffickers in human flesh, life, even in its savage state, would be enjoyed, and there would be hope that eventually civilisation, trade, and Christianity would do for them what they have done for even a far more degraded people. But alas, the slave-hunter—finding it most profitable to supply the demand for slaves, in Egypt, Turkey, Persia, and other places—turns these districts into vast wastes.

Dr. Schweinfurth says, "The worst feature in the case is the depopulation of Africa. I have myself seen whole tracts of country in Dar Ferteet, turned into barren uninhabited wildernesses, simply because all the young girls have been carried out of the country. Turks and Arabs will urge that they are only drawing off useless blood. If these people are allowed to increase and multiply, they will only turn round and kill one another. But the truth is far otherwise. The time has come when the vast continent of Africa can no longer be dispensed with. It must take its share in the commerce of the world, and this cannot be effected until slavery is abolished. Sooner than that the natives should be exterminated, I would see all Turks, Arabs, or whatever else these apathetic nations may be called, vanish from the face of the earth. They are only occupying the place of their betters; and negroes, if they only work, are their betters.

"I travelled in the Nile countries from 1863 to 1866, and again from 1868 to 1871. On my first journey I visited all the great markets of the slave-trade—Cairo, Siout, Djiddah, Soakin, Matamma in Gallabat, Khartoum and Berber; in my second I reached its sources in the lands to the South of Darfoor and Kordofan. Throughout my wanderings I was ever puzzling out schemes for setting bounds to this inhuman traffic. The traveller in these lands is kept in one perpetual state of irritation by what he sees. On every road he meets long troops of slaves. On the Sea and round the Coasts, he comes in contact with Arab boats crammed full of the same miserable creatures."

PETITION TO THE HOUSE OF COMMONS ON SLAVERY IN WEST AFRICA.

THE following Petition from the Committee of the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society was presented to the House of Commons by Mr. Evelyn Ashley, on Monday, June 29th.

TO THE HONOURABLE THE COMMONS OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND IN PARLIAMENT ASSEMBLED.

The humble petition of the Committee of the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society, sheweth—

That your Petitioners have observed that Her Majesty's Government propose that the Gold Coast Settlements in West Africa shall be administered on the system of a Crown Colony, under a Governor to be appointed by Her Majesty, and whose salary is to be paid from the general revenues of Great Britain.

That your Petitioners have at various times had their attention turned to the existence of slavery and the slave-trade in the Settlements and Dependencies of the British Government on the Gold Coast of Western Africa, and that they called the especial attention of the late Government to the subject.

That recent circumstances have tended to show that these evils exist there to a greater extent than was formerly supposed.

That the honour of the British nation is deeply compromised by the existing state of things in those Settlements.

That it has been the glory and boast of Great Britain that slavery cannot exist in British territory, and that the moment a slave sets his foot on British ground, he is free.

That your Petitioners have learnt with surprise and alarm that Her Majesty's Government propose in their arrangements for settling the administration of the Gold Coast Settlements to permit the continuation of slavery, whereby the anti-slavery policy of this country will be practically reversed.

That many instances have occurred in which slavery among uncivilised people has been abolished without the difficulties having been found which are supposed to exist in such cases.

That among the more recent examples of this are the abolition of slavery by the King of Siam, and of both slavery and the slave-trade in both Khiva and Bokhara through the influence of the Emperor of Russia.

That slavery and the slave-trade are deeply injurious to every interest among the people in the Gold Coast Settlements, that they have proved a source of great difficulty to the British Government, and they will continue to be an embarrassment to it so long as they are allowed to exist.

That it cannot be right for this country or creditable to it in the eyes of other nations, that Great Britain should at the same time be requiring a potentate on the East Coast of Africa to put down the slave-trade, and be affording its sanction, if not its protection, to slavery on its own Settlements on the West Coast.

For these reasons, and for the honour of Great Britain, your Petitioners earnestly pray that the House of Commons will take immediate measures for the entire abolition of slavery and the slave-trade in the settlements and dependencies on the Gold Coast.

And your Petitioners, as in duty bound will ever pray.

JOSEPH COOPER,	} <i>Honorary</i>	
ROBERT ALSOP,		} <i>Secretaries.</i>
EDMUND STURGE,		
		BENJ. MILLARD, <i>Secretary.</i>

SLAVERY ON THE GOLD COAST.

DEBATE IN PARLIAMENT.

WHEN Mr. Lowther, the Under-Secretary for the Colonies, explained to the House of Commons the policy Her Majesty's Government proposed to follow in the West Coast settlements, it was hoped that they would announce their intention to abolish slavery from the territories over which the British flag waved. In this, however, the friends of humanity were sadly disappointed, and Mr. Evelyn Ashley, the member for Poole, on Monday, June 29th, brought the subject under the consideration of the House by submitting a motion to the effect "that no arrangements on the Gold Coast could be deemed satisfactory that did not provide for the extinction of slavery."

SLAVERY ON THE GOLD COAST.

On the motion for the second reading of the resolutions agreed to in Committee of Supply on Thursday last, Mr. Evelyn Ashley rose to move as an amendment "that, in the opinion of this House, no arrangements for the govern-

ment of the territories on the Gold Coast will be satisfactory which involve the recognition of slavery in any form." The hon. member said an evening organ of party opinion had within the last few days said that in bringing this matter forward he was prompted by mere selfish ambition. If the ambition to be the instrument of placing on record a resolution which might elicit from the Government some decided expression of opinion, and some plan which the House could understand and lay hold of to put a stop to slavery on the Gold Coast, was a mere selfish ambition, he pleaded guilty to the charge. This was

HIS ONLY OBJECT,

and he therefore hoped that Her Majesty's Government would, either by explaining their plan to the House, or by frankly accepting his resolution, afford him the satisfaction of attaining his object. It had also been said that he was guilty of gross inconsistency in bringing his motion forward after having voted with the Government on the amendment of the hon. member for King's County. He could see no inconsistency in this. He supported Her Majesty's Government because he agreed with them in thinking that this country would be faithless to her obligations if she precipitately retired from the Gold Coast, but he supported the Government with the hope that they would remain for the present on the Gold Coast to do their duty, and not to shirk it; to discharge all their responsibilities, and not merely to claim their rights; to maintain the honour of their flag, and not to tarnish it by tampering with the system of slavery which existed on the Coast. He hoped to be able to show that, whether they looked to the merits of the case or to the tone adopted by the Government in the enunciations made on the subject, there was ample cause for passing such a resolution as the one he now proposed. The hon. member for York (Mr. J. Lowther), who represented the Colonial Office in that House, had on two occasions spoken upon this subject with great ability; and he might remark, in passing, that he could have been satisfied with a little less ability if there had been more distinctness of purpose about the utterances. On the first occasion the hon. gentleman, when alluding to those members of the House and persons outside it who expressed themselves strongly to the effect that some marked step ought to be taken for the abolition of slavery, applied to them the phrase "mawkish philanthropists." The hon. member was, no doubt, speaking for himself, and if he regretted the expression soon after it was used, it was the more incumbent upon him to take the first opportunity which offered in order to give a distinct intimation that what he had previously said was a slip of the tongue, and was neither his own conviction nor the conviction of the Government. (Hear.) But he appealed to the House to say whether the hon. member had given them any such consolation. In the few words the hon. member addressed to the House

MR. LOWTHER DEALT WITH THE QUESTION IN
AN EVASIVE MANNER,

and drew almost all his weapons of defence from the armoury of *non possumus*—*non possumus* for a strong government—*non possumus* which had been, rightly or wrongly, often supposed to communicate by a secret door with *nolumus*. (Hear, hear.) One of his objects in putting his motion on the paper was that foreign countries might hear from the Treasury bench something to lead them to suppose that when Her Majesty's Government said, "We are not able," they did not really mean "We are not willing." The resolution was an abstract resolution, and he knew the objection entertained by the House to motions of the kind; but he had always understood that the objection was based on the opinion that those who supported them were bound to a course of conduct which, when the time for action came, might be found inexpedient, or at any rate difficult, to carry out. (Hear, hear.) Would any hon. member object to being committed to the declaration that no government for the territories of the Gold Coast would be satisfactory which involved the recognition of slavery in any form? There was not only

NO DANGER IN PLEDGING THEMSELVES TO THIS
RESOLUTION,

but everything demanded that they should do so. The Under-Secretary for the Colonies had said there was no recognition of slavery in the administrative scheme which the Government were about to carry out. If that were the case, then that resolution would not hamper them, but would only declare to the whole world that they were determined to have nothing to do with the institution of slavery. He wished to point out that whatever had been the state of things in the past, they were now taking an entirely new departure in regard to that question. After emerging from a most successful war, we were about to reorganize the whole of that country, to define and extend its territorial jurisdiction, to unite Lagos to the dominion of Cape Coast Castle—a Crown colony, where slavery was not tolerated. Therefore they were about to introduce into a hybrid protectorate a territory where slavery was not tolerated, and place it side by side with a territory where slavery was tolerated. Since the late Ashantee war England on the Gold Coast was in a very analogous position to that of a new Ministry returned with a powerful majority after an appeal to the country. By our successful campaign we had so established our *prestige* on that coast that we could do what we liked; we

MIGHT NOW ABOLISH SLAVERY

if we chose; but next year, or the year after, we might not be able to do so. And when the Under-Secretary told them he was for gradual emancipation, he agreed with him, but he did not believe in the gradual without gradation; he did not believe in the gradual unless he knew what the first step was. The speech made in another place by the noble earl at the

head of the Colonial Office was admirable in tone and right in sentiment; but the House must not be satisfied with mere expressions of sentiment and right feeling. Let the Government clearly state what their first step was to be. Were they to forbid the bringing of slaves from Ashantee to the Gold Coast? Were the slaves to be free henceforth, or were the judges no longer to be employed to enforce the slave laws, backed by the power of England? Slavery—call it domestic slavery, or by any other name—

SLAVERY DID EXIST ON THE GOLD COAST, to all intents and purposes as liable to condemnation as that which we spent £20,000,000 to get rid of in the West Indies. Having quoted some newspaper extracts in support of this assertion, the hon. gentleman went on to say that although there was no slave-trade by sea to those stations on the West African Coast, there was a large trade of that kind from the interior; and there was no difference in principle between such a traffic carried on by water and one carried on by land.

SLAVERY DEGRADED THE WHOLE SOCIAL SYSTEM of African life, and rendered the introduction of civilised influences more difficult than it otherwise would be. The hon. member then mentioned the case of two women who, when a party of Houssas were going away in a transport from Cape Coast Castle, had escaped and were claimed by their mistresses. The native police took the women ashore, and the judicial assessor, an English judge, restored them to their mistresses. The judicial assessor said the charge against these women was that they had stolen the clothes in which they stood. He added that the women went back of their own accord, upon his persuasion, and whether that were so or not, they had this fact—

AN ENGLISH JUDGE RESTORED TO SLAVERY two women who had escaped. (Hear, hear.) By tolerating this system of slavery on the Gold Coast we were raising up for ourselves very great practical difficulty. Captain Glover, in one of his despatches to Sir Garnet Wolseley, said that, finding slavery a recognised institution in the Protectorate, he had been obliged to pay £5 for every Houssa he enlisted where any claim was made by the master. In one case, too, one of his recruits came in with a staple on his leg, and with the marks of irons on his arms and wrists. He should be glad to learn from the hon. member for York whether the Government intended to pay £5 for each of the 1,100 Houssas they intended to keep on the Coast.

NO TIME BETTER TO DEAL WITH THIS SUBJECT than the present, for it had entirely ceased during the war, because there had been no traffic between Ashantees and the Coast. Since the taking of Coomassie, however, the traffic had been renewed. The present Government, too, were for another reason better able to deal effectively with this question than their predecessors. Until the late war the people

of this country knew very little about the affairs of the Coast, but with the knowledge they had now obtained they would willingly applaud and support any efforts which the Government might make for the rescue of these slaves. (Hear, hear.) There was no question in this matter about spending a million sterling, for the population was only 200,000, and when they remembered that the best slaves cost only £5 they might be sure that the extreme sum required would not exceed £100,000. But there was in reality

NO NECESSITY FOR SPENDING ANY MONEY

at all. (Hear.) All that was required was that no English judge should be permitted to enforce the law for the recovery of slaves, and that no slave should be allowed to be brought from the interior and to be sold at Cape Coast. As these slaves were now of a domestic character, the alteration could easily be made, but if not made now how long did Her Majesty's Government think that slavery would be confined to domestic servitude when the roads which were contemplated were made and the prosperity which was hoped for had been attained? (Hear, hear.) Lord Kimberley, in a despatch to Sir Garnet Wolseley, said that the native Kings had conducted themselves so badly that Her Majesty's Government would not feel themselves bound to consult them in future arrangements, and would place the affairs of the Gold Coast on such a footing as they might deem best. He ventured to suggest to Her Majesty's Government that that footing should comprise

THE ABOLITION OF SLAVERY.

When the hon. member for York told the House that there were great difficulties in the way, it should be remembered that even in connection with affairs on the Gold Coast we had overcome greater difficulties still, for when we first went to the Gold Coast human sacrifices were as frequent and general as they now were at Coomassie. Those sacrifices were abolished by a single stroke of the pen. (Cheers.) He had been taunted good-humouredly by some of his hon. friends on the other side with having abandoned the principles of the great statesman with whom he had been so long associated, and with having allied himself to those whom his hon. friends called "anarchical revolutionists." But he would ask whether there was any doubt on which side Lord Palmerston would have recorded his vote if this resolution had been proposed in his presence. (Cheers.) What he desired was that the Government on the Gold Coast should be real and substantial. In reality we had a Crown colony there in everything but the name, and it was only called a Protectorate in order that slavery might not cease. (Hear, hear.) The general character of this country depended upon the course which we pursued in relation to this question. Russia, whom we had been in the habit of considering inferior to ourselves in civilisation, had within the last few months set us an example. The first thing

THE EMPEROR OF RUSSIA

did after the capture of Khiva was to call upon the Khan to emancipate every slave in his dominions. (Hear, hear.) He did not trust to the influence of time and of increasing civilisation, but declared at once that slavery would not be tolerated in any place where his power was known. (Hear, hear.) The result was a decree in which the Khan emancipated every slave of whatever description. With regard to Egypt, there had not till this time been any official announcement of the freedom of the slaves in that country, but he held in his hand a project for their emancipation, which, though not strictly an official paper, had been published in an Alexandrian journal, *Le Nil*, in which nothing appeared without official sanction. With these two examples before us, were we to hold back our hand and wait and think, and not act at once?

HOW SHOULD WE ANSWER THE SULTAN OF ZANZIBAR

if, on our putting pressure upon him for the purpose of having slavery suppressed, he said to us:—"It's all very well to ask me to do this because I am on the East Coast, but you yourselves have slavery on the West Coast, and your judges sit there restoring the slaves to their masters." (Hear, hear.) He challenged Her Majesty's Government to name a single dependency of the British Crown in which slavery in any form was tolerated. Now, however, it was proposed to make one exception. Much as he held the credit of this country to be involved in our remaining on the Gold Coast, he would sooner abandon that country altogether than see slavery recognised. (Hear, hear.) So long ago as the reign of Queen Elizabeth the judges of the land came to a solemn decision that the air of England was too pure for a slave to breathe, and if we could not clear the physical atmosphere of the Gold Coast, we might at all events, in respect of slavery, clear the moral atmosphere. He trusted Her Majesty's Government would bring forward some distinct plan whereby we should get rid in that territory of an institution which was injurious to man and foreign to our religion, and which had been condemned by our fathers. (Cheers.)

Mr. LOWTHER entered into a lengthened explanation of the Government proposals for the future administration of the Gold Coast Settlements and of the Protectorate; but his utterances on the question of slavery were not distinct.

The CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER contended that in Cape Coast Castle, Lagos, and other British settlements, liberty prevailed. With regard to slavery in the protected territories, he regarded it as a difficult and delicate question. The question was not one of money. It was by the influence of England that the Government hoped to extinguish slavery there in course of time.

Mr. GOSCHEN and Mr. W. E. FORSTER spoke in support of the motion.

Mr. DISRAELI, in commenting on Mr. Ashley's motion, said that there was unanimity on both sides of the House in regarding it as the pride and duty of this country to discourage slavery in every way and form. The question with him, however, was the *manner* in which it should be effected. The Government had given the subject their consideration, and he believed the course they proposed to pursue would be the best.

RESOLUTION ON MR. ASHLEY'S MOTION, JUNE 29TH, 1874.

At a meeting of the General Committee of the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society, held at their rooms, on Friday, July 3rd, 1874, the following Minute was unanimously adopted:—

"The subject of the toleration of slavery in the British dependencies on the West Coast of Africa has again claimed the earnest attention of the Committee, presenting, as it does, a painful contrast to the bold and lofty policy of the Indian Government in the East—insisting on and securing the liberation of every slave held by Indian subjects, however far removed from its jurisdiction.

"They feel bound to convey to the Honourable Evelyn Ashley the grateful recognition of the able manner in which he raised the question by a motion in the House of Commons on Monday evening, June 29th, and eliciting thereby an unequivocal demonstration of the feeling of the country on the subject."

WEST COAST OF AFRICA SLAVE-TRADE.

WHYDAH.

THE correspondent of the *New York Herald* gives a graphic account of his visit to

"THE SLAVE MARKET OF WHYDAH, where most of the detestable traffic in human beings is now carried on without interruption from any of the great naval Powers, was the next place visited. This place is located in the very heart of the town, and is looked upon by the white traders as the social, political and financial centre of the kingdom. It is constructed almost wholly of bamboo poles, securely set in the ground about ten feet apart, with the spaces left open between. Here and there were some pieces of matting which served as awnings to keep out the rays of the hot, burn-

ing noonday sun. The roof was thatched with palm leaves, the whole structure presenting the appearance of a continuous line of sheds occupying the three sides of a hollow square. The woodwork was covered with rude carvings of snakes and lizards, spear heads and shields. The market is only open during the early morning hours. Then the natives gather there to learn the news from the back villages when the bush people come in with the wares and trinkets they have to sell. In the centre of the market stands a pavilion of somewhat more pretentious appearance, which is set apart as King Gobo's council chamber.

"Several renegade whites—social pariahs from the more civilised portions of God's earth, and who are forced by their many crimes to become outlaws—were strutting about, dressed in linen suits and carrying sunshades in their hands. They were all puffing away at their cigars, and seemed desirous of impressing us with a favourable opinion of their vast importance. Every one of them had that indescribable and peculiarly sinister look about the lines of his face which reflects the true character of the professional thief and cut-throat. They were known as *slave-dealers*, and had attended the market of Whydah on the lookout for bargains. It had already been reported that Gobo had made a fresh haul of some 300 or 400 captives on his last stealing expedition, and these white rascals were determined to be on hand in time to gobble them all up before too much active competition should set in from the other white traders, who were hourly expected to arrive.

"These traders are usually made up of men of all nationalities, but the Spanish and Portuguese element seemed to predominate in this instance. When not buying or selling slaves they seem to spend most of their time in debauchery and gambling. Rum drinking to any great extent is not considered a very healthy practice out here, owing to the prevalence of the fever at certain seasons of the year. The whites we saw seemed pretty well acclimated. When the fever gets very bad they either retire into the interior, where most of them have their slave barracoons, or else go yatching in some of their small coasting vessels on a pleasure trip to one of the adjoining islands. We next looked in at the *slave pen*, which is directly in the rear of the market. Here, in a large circular enclosure, with a high picket fence constructed of bamboo, were confined about 300 wretched looking beings, of both sexes, in an entire state of nudity. They were crouched upon the ground in every conceivable attitude, and lay there almost motionless. Their very appearance was enough to excite the pity of any one but a brute. All of them seemed as if they were half famished, and kept up a low moaning wail, as if the 'death song,' they were said to be singing, forewarned them of the unhappy fate that was in store for them. They were taken from the country back of Efik, on the Calabar River, and were said to be cannibals. Desoza represented them

as part of a very dangerous tribe, who cook and eat every Dahomeyan they capture. In other words, they were wild beasts of the human species, and but little removed from the orang-outangs and gibbons which are to be seen on all sides and around us, as part of the population.

"A good supply of food was furnished them, consisting of baked yams, raw fish and goats' meat, uncooked and bloody, which they devoured voraciously. Three hours later not one of them was to be seen. They had all been bought by Desoza himself, and sent off to his slavepens on the confines of Whydah.

"SINCE THE EXPORT DEMAND FOR SLAVES has almost entirely ceased, by reason of the interdiction of the naval forces of the United States and Great Britain, most of the *traffic in human beings is now carried on by the people of Whydah with the neighbouring and interior tribes with whom they are at peace.* The white traders confine themselves exclusively to the foreign market. To wage war with some of these tribes for the purpose of taking prisoners and capturing booty is one of the principal occupations in which the present King of Dahomey, Gobo II., delights to engage.

"Slaves are also held to be a commercial commodity or means of exchange in time of peace. They are passed from one tribe to another and back and forth as a circulating medium; only instead of being greenbacks they may with more propriety be called brownbacks and ebony blacks. There is very little difference in the prices paid for men and women. The former seldom being over six or eight dollars of our money, the rates varying according to age and physical condition.

"TWO CARGOES OF SLAVES FOR CUBA have been run off safely last year. Instead of being called slaves, however, they were carried away as 'coolie passengers,' under a fictitious contract to serve ten years in Cuba, which, of course, means for the term of their natural lives. One cargo was conveyed away, so we are informed, by a Spanish bark, manned with a mixed crew of Spaniards and Kroomen, and sailing under Portuguese colours. These Kroomen belong to a civilised tribe living in the little Republic of Liberia, where they have their headquarters in the neighbourhood of Cape Palmas, which is one of the southern provinces.

"The Spanish bark mentioned carried off some 200 slaves of all ages and both sexes, ranging between ten years and forty. They consisted of Benga men and women, Calabars and Congoes. The second cargo was put on board a clipper ship, believed to be an American. She showed no colours during her stay at Whydah. She finally succeeded in getting clear with 630 slaves safely stowed away on board below hatches. Both of these cargoes of living freight, it is said, were sold by Desoza. This is quite likely, as they were originally held in close confinement in one of his barra-

coons in the interior, waiting for an armed escort to send them to the seaboard. We could gain no positive information from him on the subject. Probably he has a wholesome fear of the punishment that awaits him if he ever sets his foot in a Christian community again."

THE SLAVE-TRADE AND SLAVERY IN EGYPT.

Alexandria, July 16th, 1874.

MR. JOSEPH COOPER.

DEAR SIR,—Since writing to you more than a year ago, much has been said and done about slavery in Egypt and other countries on the east side of Africa. Soon after I wrote to you, the activity and earnestness of the British nation exerted a powerful influence in loosening the chains that bind many in Egypt. In one province alone in the Delta about two thousand slaves, male and female, obtained their liberty by running away from their masters and applying to the local authorities for protection. Immediately, however, on the return of the Khedive to Egypt, in the summer of 1873, everything was changed; and since that time to this it has been next to impossible for any slave to obtain his liberty by applying to the authorities.

An order was issued that no slave fleeing from his master to the chief of police should obtain free papers until his master testified that he was not under a charge of stealing or any other crime. Simple-minded Western people would, perhaps, regard the order as a very just one; but the masters have not been slow in using the pretence suggested by the Government to keep these poor creatures in bondage, and the running away of slaves, that had become so common, is now a very rare occurrence. It is no unusual sight in the towns further inland to see slave-dealers walking through the streets with two or three human chattels for sale. Everything during the past year has been devised to bind still more firmly the bonds of the slave, and, although the importation has been sensibly less, still large numbers have come into Egypt from the interior, striking the Nile below Assuan; while the slave-dealers in the towns have been doing a lively business.

I know that the Government makes professions of sympathy for the slaves, and propositions are now and again set afloat in the European journals for freeing them within a limited time. I have lived long enough in Egypt to know how little these professions mean, and with how little sincerity these propositions are suggested. I wish, too, that your Society and all the Christian world would always remember that Mohammedan rulers *never do anything*

to promote either religious or civil liberty, except what they are compelled to do by moral or material pressure from Christian nations; and their promises are never sincere in regard to these matters, and will never be fulfilled unless by an uninterrupted and continually increasing pressure from outside. It is on this account that I rejoice in the aggressive moral work of your Society, and I trust it will never grow weary in its efforts to emancipate every slave, and put an end to the barbarities and crimes of the slave-trade all over the world; for slavery is essentially the same everywhere, demoralising to the master and cruelly degrading to the enslaved.

It is sometimes said in the public prints that it is impossible for the Government of Egypt to enfranchise all the slaves in a brief period. This might be true in countries not under a despotism like Egypt; but here, where one man's word closes every gate, and stops every pathway, and commands obedience in mute silence, it would not be very difficult. If the Viceroy accompanied an order for general emancipation with the actual enfranchisement of all his own female and male slaves, black and white, together with those of his sons and daughters, he might issue the order tomorrow, and no one would dare to say a word. It is well known by the people that neither he nor any of his advisers, nor any of the numerous beys and pashas, have any sympathy at heart with the anti-slavery movement; and therefore any opposition the Government may actually make to the slave-trade, or any order apparently calculated to limit it, are well understood and treated accordingly, without any fear of punishment.

I have recently seen in the public journals that His Highness is anxious to get rid of slavery, but no Egyptian believes it, and no Egyptians will confirm that declaration, except those who wish either to deceive or please the English; and no one conversant with the internal government of Egypt, and the treatment of the Egyptians by their rulers, and the treatment of slaves running away from their masters, could believe that His Highness has any desire to get rid of slavery, except the momentary desire to please some earnest noble Englishman who speaks with him on the subject. And without the hearty sympathy of the Khedive in favour of the slaves, his paper order would be a dead letter, like the famous proclamation of religious liberty throughout the Turkish empire; unless there was felt the continual pressure from European nations. In this our success lies. May God prosper the right, and reprove the wrong among the nations!

A.

THE SLAVE-TRADE ON THE RED SEA.

THE following extract from a letter of a correspondent in Jeddah, confirms the representations made as to the increased briskness of the slave-trade on the Red Sea and the adjoining cities. It also shows that the interests of English commerce, as well as of humanity, call for the appointment of consular agency in some of the cities on the Red Sea, as well as on the Coast of Africa:—

"Jeddah, June 30th, 1874.

"All the ports on this side of the Red Sea bristle with slaves for sale, particularly Jeddah; this town supplies hundreds of homeward-bound pilgrims with (to them) the necessary article of human flesh. Abyssinians are always in demand, and the Arabs seem well able to meet it, judging from what I saw during the last pilgrim season. *Apr*opos of this mode of scattering young Africans throughout the Mahomedan world, I may say here that, in March last, a high functionary of Zanzibar and a close relation to Said Burgash, took away with him a number of young Abyssinians, preferring them, I presume, to the darker class of Ujiji. In this way, and it cannot be disputed, cruel and ruthless Arab slave-hunters convert more Abyssinians and others to Islam in one year than all our laborious African missionaries have done during the last half century to Christian converts. The reason is obvious—the slave has no alternative; he is forced to embrace Islam while in chains; and so it is with the thousands who are annually taken away from their African homes. Notwithstanding the strict injunctions of the Khedive respecting the exportation from the western shores of the Red Sea, Massowah, Souakim, and small inlets to the southward of the former port continue to be facile places of embarkation, and there are seldom any of the numerous crafts trading to those ports which do not bring their ten to twenty slaves at a time. If the English Government is really sincere in its intention to put a stop to the trade, let there be no more empty treaties, contracts, or compromises with Arabs, for the latter have a thousand and one ways of eluding the conditions of a written contract. Let England establish four consular agencies in the Red Sea, and appoint men who take a little interest in their work, visited occasionally by a gunboat attached to the station, and I venture to predict that the Arabs would give it up as unprofitable. Moreover, the commercial trade of the Red Sea has increased very considerably during the last few years, and since the opening of the Canal it has be-

come like a small Mediterranean. Numbers of English steamers are lost on its reefs every year, and yet for a thousand miles of coast not one British consular agency exists to render the necessary assistance in such cases. I transmit you these facts for the information of the Society—deeply interested in the object it has in view, and trusting its efforts will ultimately be successful.”

EGYPT.

THE DECREE IN THE “NIL” NEWSPAPER.
SLAVES DO NOT KNOW ABOUT OBTAINING
THEIR LIBERTY, &C., &C.

Alexandria, 10th August, 1874.

DEAR SIR,—

The Decree of the Khedive, which I only saw in the *Nil* newspaper (recently suppressed by the Egyptian Government), has not appeared in any other European papers, nor have I heard people speaking about it in town, which astonishes me. Possibly the Khedive put it forward to serve a purpose.

Doubtless any slaves here could obtain their freedom by going courageously to the Police Court and then demand to be set at liberty, but the knowledge of such being within their reach we believe is studiously withheld from the poor creatures. It is not unlikely that any man or woman dreaming of going to the police office, would be severely punished by the owners of the slaves—so that, in reality, the boon can hardly be said to exist; and, during a residence of many years in Egypt, I have only heard of slaves going twice to the police officer to claim their freedom.

I always feel that the apparent or the expressed desire of the Government to have nothing more to do with slavery has no serious ring about it. The Khedive, though a Moslem (at least nominally), has shown much determination at times, and, to me, has no difficulty in overcoming the scruples, if any exist, on the part of the modern Egyptians, who in general are a quiet passive race.

I like to see your Society working with such a good will, and it is pleasing to see that the poor captives have not been overlooked in the Queen's speech on the closing of Parliament. We in Egypt hope you will not give the Khedive any *rest*, until he *seriously* and sincerely, lends his strong arm in putting down the said traffic in helpless human beings, of whom two out of every three are said to die on the roadside from the interior.

I do not hear anything about the capita-

tion tax you refer to. I rather think that the Government is now ashamed to impose such, and if it is yet insisted upon, such is then obtained on the sly, and possibly goes into the pockets of the employés.

I remain,

Yours truly,

P.S. Mr. Evelyn Ashley was quite right in quoting from the *Nil*, and if it was not a Government organ (and it was not, but on the contrary spoke often against the Khedive) yet it rather did the Khedive a good turn in publishing the Decree, which had not appeared in any Government papers.

THE QUEEN'S SPEECH ON THE EAST AFRICAN SLAVE-TRADE.

PARLIAMENT was prorogued on Friday, the 7th of August, when the Lord Chancellor read the Queen's Speech, in which appears the following paragraph respecting the East African Slave-Trade:—

“The Treaty recently concluded with the Sultan of Zanzibar, having for its object the suppression of the East African slave-trade, has been faithfully observed, and has already done much to put an end to that traffic as carried on by sea. The exertions of my naval and consular servants in that part of the world will not be relaxed until complete success has been obtained.”

THE QUEEN'S SPEECH VIEWED IN THE LIGHT OF FACTS.

In addition to the official reports quoted in the last *Anti-Slavery Reporter*, showing how greatly the slave-trade had INCREASED by the land route, we now give an extract from No. VIII. of a series of letters on the East African slave-trade, published in the *English Independent*, and written by one who has a thorough knowledge of the real state and merits of the subject of the Zanzibar slave-trade. The observations of this correspondent give a very different view to that presented by the writer of the paragraph in the Queen's Speech, showing that THOUSANDS OF SLAVES, under the ruling of the British Crown lawyers, are being shipped from East Africa to the northern countries. It is surprising how, under the circumstances, such a paragraph could have been penned.

“The interpretation of Article 1 of the Treaty of June, 1873, has led to much dif-

ference of opinion. Seyd Burgash and the negotiators maintain that it stops all trade in slaves and their transport by sea, whether carried for sale or conveyed by their masters between any part of the Sultan's dominions or beyond them. This was understood as stopping a considerable indirect slave-trade, which had sprung up under the pretence of conveying the slaves from one property to another. (To this we alluded in Article VII.) In one word it put an end to smuggling slaves by sea. The reservations are so important that we will repeat them. It was understood, as many slaves are sailors by profession, that if they were working as part of the crew, *of their own free will, and for wages actually paid to themselves*, that they would not be interfered with; also that the right of the Zanzibar authorities to convey criminals by sea, even if they were slaves, would not be questioned. On this understanding the English and Zanzibar authorities acted. In November orders were received in Zanzibar stating that the legal advisers to the Crown held different views. They insisted that the captors must *prove*, in order to justify any detentions, that the slaves had been bought on the mainland, and *were actually being conveyed by dealers for sale*. When the views of the Crown lawyers were made known to the Sultan, he disavowed them as totally opposed to the spirit and intent of the treaty. In December he sent by Dr. Kirk to England a document confirming the interpretation of Article 1, held by the Consul, and he said that the construction put on it by the Crown lawyers was incorrect, and at variance with what he had ratified. The Judge of the Vice Admiralty Court at Zanzibar is guided in his judgments by the opinions of the legal advisers to the Crown. *The result of their decisions has been that the landowners and slave-dealers go and meet a caravan on the mainland; they buy slaves of both sexes and of all ages; they declare them to be their property, take them to the islands, and then await a favourable opportunity of expediting them further.* They generally keep a portion of the imported slaves to fill up vacancies caused by deaths, and also in lieu of slaves who have been in their possession one or more years, as the latter sell better and are more easily passed as property. The fears of the slaves are worked upon, and they are instructed to conceal their status from the officers of the cruisers. It is a common belief among these poor, ignorant wretches, that the English do not intend freeing them, but seize them either to send them into worse bondage than their present, or to murder and eat them. This makes detection very difficult. When they are now expedited further, *the dealers, taking advantage of the loophole our Crown lawyers have given them*, send them in small numbers either as passengers, domestic servants, field labourers, or as part of the crew. DURING A CONSIDERABLE PORTION OF THE YEAR, THIRTY OR FORTY DHOWS PASS DAILY BACKWARDS

AND FORWARDS, BETWEEN THE MAINLAND AND THE ISLANDS, AND ALSO ALONG THE COAST. IN THE COURSE OF THE YEAR SEVERAL HUNDRED VESSELS GO TO THE NORTHERN PORTS, TO THE SOMALI LAND, TO THE RED SEA, AND TO ARABIA. WE THUS SEE, SUPPOSING THAT EACH VESSEL ONLY CARRIES A FEW, HOW THE LEGAL DECISION ENABLES THE DEALERS TO TRANSPORT MANY THOUSAND SLAVES. We had arrived at, and were acting on a construction of the Treaty in which the Sultan fully concurred, which would eventually have enabled the Navy to suppress all direct and indirect traffic by sea; it was working well when these orders arrived from England, they are incomprehensible from the fact of their being opposed to the spirit and intent of our policy, our professed aims, our whole action generally, and as to this Treaty in particular. THE SULTAN, THE CONSUL, AND THE NAVAL OFFICERS HAVE ORALLY, AND IN WRITING, PROTESTED AGAINST THE INTERPRETATION OF THE CROWN LAWYERS."

SLAVE-TRADE PAPERS.

A PARLIAMENTARY "Slave-trade Paper," No. 7, has been issued, containing additional letters, dated from February 14th to April 4th, 1874, from Vice-Consul Elton, respecting the East African slave-trade. In conformity with the instructions received from Dr. Kirk, he visited the various settlements between Dar-es-Salam and Kilwa-Kivinja, where he found 313 British Indians who held 1,409 slaves, all of whom he liberated. Of these 927 elected to remain with their masters, who henceforth were to pay them for services rendered, and 482 decided to leave their masters. This happy result was attained with little difficulty, owing no doubt to the admirable tact of Captain Elton.

While liberating those held as bondsmen by British subjects, the vice-consul repeatedly witnessed how briskly the land traffic in slaves was being carried on, but which he had no power to stop. It is to be hoped that Her Majesty's Government will not lose any time to co-operate with the Sultan of Zanzibar, who is said to be anxious to suppress the trade. We give the following extracts from the letters:—

"Off Rufiji, Delta, March 22, 1874.

"But little agriculture is carried on (at Kilwa), and it is almost incredible the extent to which the surrounding country is debauched by years of slave-trade. The one fixed business and idea is slave-dealing. You free a slave, and find his ambition is to join a slave caravan! You ask a free-born man of the Mrima 'Why he does not cultivate his land?' His answer, with a laugh, is, 'Why should I take the trouble? I can buy slaves when I want

money.' Kilwa, in short, simply remains the head-quarters of ruffianly adventurers from Lamo, Sheher, Zanzibar, &c., guided by keen Shylocks, who manage the finances, and are bred up to the underhand roguery by which the machinery of this great oppression produces rapid returns, and affords an almost unlimited field for speculation. One is often tempted to agree with a sweeping Arab remark, 'That as long as Kilwa stands so long will the slave-trade flourish.'

"There are daily arrivals of slaves from the interior, who are often met yoked with sticks or in chains; but they come in in small parties, and represent the ventures of petty expeditions, which remain out a week or ten days, and barter cloth, beads, &c., with the adjacent tribes. In advancing goods to the traders of these wretches, who are sold at once to the caravans leaving for the north, the Indian holders of small shops are certainly to blame, and require strict detective discipline and punishment to thoroughly deter them. In the grain trade and ivory trade these men cannot compete with their richer countrymen, and the temptation of large profits and quick returns, with only a remote chance of detection, is too great a temptation for their innate thirst after money-making.

"The almost daily departure of caravans north during the past two months and more, has, I have already reported, drained the stock of slaves in Kilwa to about 400; but fresh supplies are reported as near, and fresh expeditions are being organised, the presence of agents from Lamo and Pemba showing that the demand, even at the present advanced prices, continues steady. Thirty to forty dollars a-head were paid for the large gangs which I first met on the Kisiju-road; since then the prices in Kilwa have risen to thirty and thirty-five dollars, and this without, as before, any stipulation of delivery at a port further north. As one of the Indians I convicted had traded slaves at twelve dollars, it is evident the profits are immense.

"All 'collected' slaves destined for one purchaser or caravan are kept away from the town on the outlying plantations until all is ready for the march; but the rains not having yet set in, no alteration whatever has taken place in departures, the Rufiji still being at its usual level.

"On the 22nd a large slave caravan was met while crossing the Pafuni. Several gangs marched past us quietly, heavily armed and guarded by Arabs; but our party arrived suddenly on the main body, halted in the long grass by the river bank, and a panic was the result. One of my followers, a boy, who had put a large sun helmet on the top of his fez, and headed the line of 'Wapagazi' through the reeds a little above where I had crossed, appeared to the slave-driver's fears the leader of a subtle flank movement, and with loud cries of 'wazungo,' 'wazungo' (white men, white men), a *sauve qui peut* commenced. Arabs, throwing away their arms, disappeared into the bush, loose slaves and excited drivers ran in all direction, water jars, rice bags, papers,

the strong-box, and all the baggage of the caravan lay strewn about upon the trampled reeds and long tiger grass. Here stood a gang of wretched children whose connecting chain was entangled in the thorn bushes, wailing piteously; there a gang of emaciated men doggedly waiting with bewildered eyes to see what new evil would befall them; whilst the screams, shouts, and general confusion were deafening. I estimated the number of slaves at 300, although it afterwards appeared there were 600, including those already across the river. Their condition was horrible, marched as they had been almost without a halt from the Miao country near the Nyassa Lake. But nothing could be done to help them; any conflict with the Arabs would have been fatal to further progress. Fortunately one Arab was secured, and, as he witnessed the punishment of one of my men who was caught meddling with the strong-box, and saw that none of the party interfered with the wreck of the caravan, I dispatched him forthwith to hunt up his fellow-ruffians, and pushed on beyond the Yegea River. When after a halt we subsequently toiled through the deep tenacious mud of the long Yegea swamp, where, fresh as the men were, we could hardly manage two miles in an hour, all realised what a terrible morning the weary, heavily-ironed slaves must have endured.

"The town of Kisiju is a straggling row of houses and plantations on the Magassi River, hidden from view by cocoa-nut groves, and sheltered by the opposite, the right bank of the river, from the sea. A dangerous ford, breast high, at low water, crosses the Lagoon, the road from here following the sea beach for some miles. This is a resting-place for the caravans; huts being built for the slaves, cooking trenches dug, stocks and extra irons kept in readiness, and an Arab overseer in charge of the arrangements for victualling. A new branch of industry has also been established; the inhabitants having discovered that buying up sick slaves from the gangs, feeding them into condition, and re-selling them, is a profitable and easy means of additional income.

"In the town and the neighbourhood are ruins to which fabulous traditions are attached; but they are evidently Portuguese; and on the coast, about three miles to the south, a ruined fort is manifestly not Shirazi, but Portuguese handiwork. The masonry still holds together, as well as the inclosing wall, although built on an exposed bluff, facing both wind and wave."

THE SLAVE-TRADE IN THE UPPER NILE DISTRICT.

WE have been told that the slave-trade in the Upper Nile district is suppressed. Few, however, have been able to give credence to this statement. The following extracts of a letter from a gentleman attached to Lieut.-Col. Gordon's expedition give a very different picture of the state of things:—

"BERBER, Friday, May 22, 1874.

"... The slave-trade appears to be flourishing, and we were shown three large stations on the map. Mr. Giegler, who went from Berber to Khartoum a few days ago, met not less than ELEVEN caravans of slaves on the way. Gordon stopped all the caravans he met, and asked the people if they wished to go on. Those who said "No" were sent back to their families. Those who said "Yes" were allowed to go on. . . ."

"FASHODA, June 18, 1874.

"... What Colonel Gordon intends to do in reference to slavery I cannot say, but I imagine he is gaining information and resolving the best way of dealing with the open trade. You see the people do not think it is wrong, and one fellow at Khartoum, who knows a good deal of what is going on, said that the English and French carry on the slave-trade when it suits them, and ship off people to work on their sugar and rice fields, and want to keep the markets all to themselves. He declared he knew merchants who had seen our slaves on the Gold Coast. The demand for slaves in Turkey is enormous, and you know that in Cairo slaves are needed for all the native houses. The other day one of us dismissed a servant and the fellow was delighted. 'I will buy a couple of slaves,' he said, 'and take them to Khartoum, where I shall sell them at a fine profit.' The colonel has accurate information as to four large trading stations for slaves. A pretty Abyssinian girl can be bought any day in Khartoum for forty dollars, and it will be difficult to eradicate the practice, which is justified by the Khoran. The Missionaries do not make any way, in fact they retrograde; and our own efforts to put down slavery or the slave-trade on the coast may give us some idea of the difficulty of dealing with it in these immense regions, where you may travel for months without meeting with what is called 'a constituted authority.'"

SIR BARTLE FRERE PRESENTED WITH THE FREEDOM OF THE CITY.

On Thursday, July 16, 1874, the freedom of the City was presented to Sir Bartle Frere, in recognition of his career in India, and of his services in obtaining the Anti-Slave-trade Treaty from the Sultan of Zanzibar. There was a very large attendance of aldermen, commoners, and visitors; among the latter were two of the Honorary Secretaries, and the Secretary of the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society.

THE SULTAN OF ZANZIBAR'S PRO- POSAL TO VISIT ENGLAND.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—Aug. 4, 1874.

Sir W. LAWSON asked the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether

the Sultan of Zanzibar, since the signing of the Treaty in May last year, had not, through Her Majesty's representative, intimated a wish to visit England, and if so whether Her Majesty's Government would not, in view of furthering the object of that Treaty, deem it expedient to facilitate such a visit.

Mr. BOURKE: I understand that the Sultan of Zanzibar has on one or more previous occasions intimated his wish to visit England, but no communication to that effect has been received by the present Government until two days ago, and there has not yet been time to take Her Majesty's pleasure on the subject.

The following extract from No. VIII. of the series of letters published in the *English Independent*, will throw some light on the subject referred to by Sir W. Lawson. It is to be hoped that Her Majesty's Government will encourage His Royal Highness to visit England, in order to complete the object sought by the Anti-Slave-Trade Treaty:—

"The reason why the slave-trade flourishes is because our authorities cannot be brought to give the question their attention. The fact is they are indifferent to it and will not be troubled with it. We have shown that the Sultan could not sign the Treaty unless we used coercive measures; we used them, and he signed, as he could then do so without endangering his life. He sacrificed personally an annual income of from £9,000 to £10,000. He lost his popularity, and his power was weakened. He clearly saw that the present arrangement could not be a definite one, and wished to go to England to come to a further understanding. The answer which he received from the Foreign Office has certainly the merit of being laconic. It was 'YOU ARE NOT INVITED.' Every overture which he has made since, and he has made several, has had equally civil replies. We lost then a golden opportunity of saving the country an annual item of expenditure, of extending our trade, and of establishing settlements for free and freed labour under our control on a sound basis, where the men of commerce, the agriculturists, and the missionaries could labour and be protected. Seyd Burgash still wishes to come to England. He is still desirous to settle this vexed question of the slave-trade; he is ready to act with us, as he sees that the trade must eventually cease. He is convinced that a legal trade will, in the end, be the most remunerative, and that it will open up the resources of his dominions, which are vaster than is generally believed. The question now arises, what possible objection can there be to his being invited to come to England, and when he comes to his being liberally and generously dealt with? Directly, it will cost us much less than keeping up an expensive squadron! Indirectly, we shall be

gainers, as it will lead to the extension of our trade! Looking at his visit from a humanitarian point of view, it seems to be our clear duty to come to a final settlement with him, which can alone be done in London. The slave-trade can only be suppressed in unison with him, and by strengthening, supporting, and even extending the power of the present and future Sultans of Zanzibar. This we believe is the opinion of most of those who have studied the question on the spot, and who are practically acquainted with the Zanzibar dominions and the people who inhabit them. The Sultan of Zanzibar would give us guarantees which we could make binding on the land. We are strong enough to insist on their being fulfilled under our supervision. Whoever may be the ruler of Zanzibar, he has too many rebellious Arabs and negro races to deal with to be able to afford to quarrel with any European Power."

LIEUT. CAMERON'S REPORT ON THE EAST AFRICAN SLAVE-TRADE IN THE INTERIOR.

THE following letter has been sent to us from the Foreign Office:—

LIEUT. CAMERON TO THE EARL OF DERBY.

Kawelè, Ujiji, March 4th, 1874.

MY LORD,—I have the honour to bring before your consideration the question of the East African Slave-trade, as it has appeared to me since I have been in the interior.

It is a question of vast importance, as, until it is put an end to, little or nothing can be done towards the regeneration and civilization of this part of the world; and whilst communication remains in its present unsatisfactory state, slavery will still continue to be a blot on some of the fairest and most fertile portions of the world.

The slave-trade flourishes in a belt of jungle villages, about a week's march from the coast; the people of which have agreed to supply a certain number of slaves to the inhabitants of Whinlè, in return for which they are allowed to extort Mhongo or black-mail from passing caravans. This has only been the case during the last twelve months or so, our caravan and some others which came up about the same time, having been the first who were subjected to this extortion.

These villages are built in the centre of patches of jungle, and only accessible by narrow and tortuous paths which could easily be blocked so as to render access impossible; however, none of the patches are large enough to prevent their being thoroughly searched by rockets, and, in the event of the people refusing to desist from their abominable traffic, they might easily be reached by a naval brigade, formed from the squadron on the East Coast. With a

view to this, it might be well if the dépôt ship were furnished with a rocket battery and a couple of the Abyssinian 7-pounders, together with a mule train sufficient to provide the necessary transport.

Proceeding westward, on the regular caravan route, Simbaweni and some dependent villages form another centre where slaves are sold to caravans proceeding to the coast. They are principally procured by forays on the surrounding Washenzi (or wild people), a party setting out and destroying villages, and carrying off those of the inhabitants who are not killed or are unable to make their escape.

If among the captives there are any who, by age or infirmities, are valueless in the market, they are frequently murdered in cold blood, in order to save the value of their food.

After crossing the Makata Plain, the villages of Mbuni, Kdeletamarè, Reheneko, and Muinyi Usagara, together with some owned by freed men or escaped slaves of the Arabs at Zanzibar, form the foci of the trade; here, in addition to the slaves obtained by forays, the captives made in the internal wars of the Waroro and Wabeni, are bought and sold, and also the people are by no means averse to attacking caravans of Wanyamwesi, if they think themselves strong enough to do so in safety; but this is usually done more for the sake of plunder than to obtain slaves.

From here, one passes on past Mpwapwa, which is more a provisioning station for caravans between two desert tracts than anything else, to Ugogo, which is principally an importing country, the soil being comparatively poor and requiring more labour in its cultivation than the rest of the country; besides which, the natives (men) usually confine themselves to taking care of their cattle, of which they have large herds, leaving the field work to their women and slaves.

However, at Khoko, where a few Wamrima are settled, and Mdaburu, the two western districts, slaves are exported, usually bought from the Warori, whose country marches with theirs on the south.

After Ugogo, we come to Unyamwesi, which may be considered as comprising Mgunda Mkali on the east and Uvinza on the west.

Here the question is more complicated than anywhere else.

1. There are the Arabs, under which term I include Waswahili, Wamrima, and the rest, as it is the general custom to do so in this part of Africa, and their connection with the trade may be classed under two heads:—

(a.) The respectable portion, who have either settled in the country or who take charge of large trading caravans. These men buy slaves for domestic purposes and to cultivate their large shambas or farms, many possessing a whole village and surrounding country, besides their tembe in

Taborah, Kivikurah or Kiviharrah, some more than one; all the inhabitants of these villages are slaves. Besides this, when there is lack of the necessary portage, they use slaves to form their caravans, who used to form a large proportion of the men sold at Zanzibar.

(b.) The Arabs who are not rich enough to do as above, frequently adopt the following plan:—

They manage somehow or another to arm a party of men and travel about the country fomenting the quarrels between neighbouring villages, and, taking as a rule the side of the strongest, are repaid, after the other side have been conquered, in slaves and ivory for their assistance.

These men, if they find themselves strong enough, are exceedingly prone to attack a village without any pretext at all, and instances have been known of their plundering the caravans of other Arabs, and also of their joining with men who, like Mirambo, are at war with the settlers; however, in Mirambo's own case, there are none with him, as, when one or two offered to join him, he killed them saying, "Traitors once, traitors always."

The slaves, &c., collected by these men they easily dispose of to the Arabs settled in Unyanyembe as they can be kept at the outlying villages till all question about them has passed away.

2. The trade as carried on by the natives themselves.

(a.) At present, and as far as I can judge, parties of Ruga Ruga, or banditti, infest the whole country, who snatch one or two people out of the fields, or plunder small caravans, and sometimes, when in great force, attacking a village and perhaps, though very rarely, a large caravan.

These parties are composed of men who, when at home, are looked upon as respectable members of society, but who carry on their business some thirty or forty miles away from their own villages.

They either bring the proceeds of their robberies into Unyanyembe or wait till an agent of the Arabs comes round on a purchasing expedition.

(b.) Petty wars are constantly taking place, and the captives are always made slaves, sometimes sold and sometimes retained by their captors to work the ground.

(c.) Stronger tribes make forays on weaker and adjoining ones, as is constantly the case in Ugara and Uvinza, where the people harry the unfortunate inhabitants of Kawende whenever they think they require slaves or the fancy takes them.

I am told that the Arabs also, when unable to find sufficient carriage here, send armed parties into Kawende in order to make up the deficiency.

(d.) There are also a number of runaway slaves who have their head-quarters not very far from Ugogo, who subsist entirely by slave-trade and plunder.

(e.) The preceding may be considered the

normal modes in which slaves are obtained; but there is at present an abnormal cause for a large amount, viz., the war between Mirambo and the Arabs.

Mirambo by no means confines himself to attacks on the Arabs and their allies, but everywhere where he goes, if the people do not side with him, he destroys their villages and carries off all he can as slaves, whom he easily disposes of by means of tribes who are supposed to be friendly to the Arabs, whilst in reality they are his allies and supply him with powder and all the other stores he requires.

About the slave-trade here with regard to the slaves brought from the other side of the lake I am not at present in a position to say anything, but when I know more I will write about it as opportunity offers.

Since leaving Unyanyembe I have passed large tracts of country which have been depopulated by this infernal traffic.

With regard to its suppression it is and will continue an impossibility until communication with the civilized world is opened up. There are no engineering difficulties in the way of a railroad from Bago-moyo to Ujiji, and a line of single rail 3 ft. 6 in. gauge ought to be constructed for £1,000 per mile.

£800,000 ought to bring it into complete working order. For a large portion of the distance the sleepers and rails would only have to be laid down and ballasted.

The present traffic on this line would pay an interest of 5 per cent., and the increase of import and export would double or treble this in a few years.

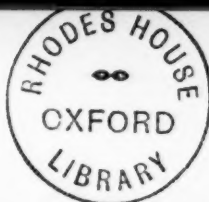
Now, ivory and slaves are almost the only exports, but if means of transport be provided and cultivation encouraged we ought to get cotton, india-rubber, semsem and palm oils, hides, rice, grain, coffee, and spices. I have picked up wild nutmegs.

In addition, when the line was completed, branch roads might be made to the Victoria Nyanza and to Ururi, and as time went on lines might be carried on on the other side of the Tanganyika.

When the trunk line to this place is finished, I would recommend the appointment of European commissioners near Mbumi in Unyanyembe (not at Taborah, which is unhealthy) and here. They should each have at their disposal a force of about 500 or 600 Indian soldiers, and a sufficient number of European subordinates in order to be able to punish any one found engaged in the slave-trade, and to prevent the petty wars which foster it.

Here should be stationed two or three vessels of about 50 tons each, which might be sent up in pieces, to protect legal trade, and put a stop to the transport of slaves.

This being a question which affects the whole civilized world, a Commission of the different great Powers might be formed in order to decide as to what means should be taken in order to do away with this curse of Africa.



Instead of her being drained of her life-blood, she requires a much larger population than she has at present in order to develop her vast resources.

At present there is a difficulty as to what to do with the liberated slaves; why not found colonies for them? which might be protected at first, but would soon become self-supporting and able to govern themselves.

In conclusion, I would add that, wherever I have come in contact with Arabs, I have found them most kind, courteous, and hospitable.

I do not consider them to blame as regards the slave-trade; they found the existing state of things, and let it remain as they found it. Their slaves are nearly always—the exceptions are only enough to prove the rule—well fed and kindly treated and looked after.

I have, &c.

(Signed) V. LOVETT CAMERON, R.N.

The Anti-Slavery Reporter.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1st, 1874.

NATAL.

“THE BLUE-BOOK ON THE LATE KAFIR OUTBREAK.”

A BLUE-BOOK, entitled “Papers on the late Kafir Outbreak,” containing eighty-four foolscap pages of printed matter, was presented to Parliament at the close of the Session.

Though these papers afford evidence of the humane intention of the Governor at the commencement of the disturbances in Natal, scarcely any notice appears in them of the charges of extreme cruelty subsequently practised, and which were published in the columns of the local newspapers, and preferred by Bishop Colenso and some other gentlemen.

It will be recollected that these charges imply a fearful amount of bloodshed and unnecessary severity on the part both of the Volunteers and the loyal native forces; many of them long after all serious resistance to the authorities had ceased.

The Earl of Carnarvon—in an excellent despatch to the Governor, Sir B. Pine, dated April the 7th—has called attention to the gravity of these charges, and has requested detailed information respecting them.

We understand the Government only waits for the answer to these charges, in order to lay the whole before Parliament.

We trust there will be no suppression, but

that the information supplied by Bishop Colenso and others to the Colonial Office will be published WITHOUT MUTILATION. In this way only can the Crown and country in any measure be relieved from the responsibility at present resting upon them.

It may be remembered that the Anti-Slavery Committee addressed the Earl of Kimberley last January on the project currently reported in Natal of consigning the Zulu women and children to forced servitude among the employers of labour in distant parts of the country. The Blue-book contains a reply from Sir B. Pine, by which we learn that the original intention has been abandoned, and that the women are now placed with friendly tribes, and maintained at the expense of the Government. The Governor, in giving this information, alludes to the case as a question of extreme difficulty. This cannot be a matter of surprise, if we consider that the Governor could have no precedent to guide him.

Suddenly to depopulate a whole country on the suspicion of rebellion, whether well or ill-founded—to slaughter and chase out of the country the whole male population—to carry off all the women and the property of the people—is, we believe, an event nearly, if not altogether, without a parallel in the history of civilised nations.

Had the humane spirit which appears to have characterised the acts of the Governor at the very commencement of the affair been maintained throughout by his subordinates, such results, in our opinion, never could have followed.

One of the most discouraging circumstances connected with this matter is the state of public feeling in Natal. The language of most of the speakers at the public meetings which have been held has been calculated rather to inflame the public than to incline them to justice and mercy.

Those who have been engaged in the destruction of their fellow-men, and who lightly term the task “rabbit-hunting,” do not require to be urged on in their work.

We read some time ago with deep regret the letter in the *Times*, signed by many ministers of religion. Although it carefully avoids going into any of the published facts, it endorses everything done by the Government, and declares it to have been, “throughout, humane and lenient.” It seems a little strange that so large a number

of ministers, many of them resident in distant and outlying districts, should have signed a document which states that they are well acquainted with the rebellion of Langabalele and the campaign which followed. But it will be recollected that a similar declaration was signed by certain ministers of religion in Jamaica at the time of the Eyre Massacre, though, if correctly informed, we must do some of them the credit to state that they subsequently expressed their regret at having done it.

It was on that memorable occasion also that a public meeting was held in Natal to express sympathy for Governor Eyre, at which a resolution was passed declaring the pleasure with which the people of that Colony would welcome him as the Governor of Natal.

The cause of humanity owes much in this matter to Dr. Colenso; but we fear that as regards the course recently taken by a large number of otherwise excellent ministers of religion in the Colony, it must be admitted that "Christianity is wounded in the house of her friends."

In concluding his despatch Sir B. C. Pine says—"This is the first hostile communication which I have received from the Anti-Slavery Society during a pretty long career, in which I have had so much to do with coloured and native people."

To the truth of this, it is a pleasure to us to bear a full and unqualified testimony. Previous to the present painful circumstance no Governor in our time has administered his charge with more uniform kindness, consideration, and justice towards the less enlightened classes, than Sir Benjamin C. Pine.

Governor Pine also refers to the favourable opinion of the other Chiefs, but what else could be expected from them, after they had just seen with how little hesitation and how much promptitude a kindred tribe had been exterminated.

THE PORTUGUESE MACAO CHINESE COOLIE TRADE TO PERU.

ON December 27th, 1873, a proclamation was published by the Portuguese Government, prohibiting the China coolie trade from Macao to Cuba and Peru, from March 27th, 1874.

It was expected that every possible effort would be made by the brokers, barracoon men, and kidnappers (of whom there are 40,000 in Macao and its vicinity), to ignore the proclamation and continue the trade. It was also feared, by not a few, that the Portuguese Government would fail to enforce the prohibition. We regret to find that the trade is not suppressed. The following paragraph from the *Journal Officiel*, shows that nine weeks after the date referred to, a cargo of 663 Chinese coolies sailed from Macao to Callao. We trust the Portuguese Government will be able to prove that they were no parties to the violation of their proclamation, and that the prohibition will be enforced.

A TRAGEDY AT SEA.

An account has reached the *Journal Officiel* of a frightful tragedy on the high seas. On the 8th of June the Italian vessel, *Napoleon Camarero*, sailed from Macao, with a crew of 40 men, 663 coolies for Callao, and 8,000 packets of fireworks. After a lapse of two days the interpreter discovered a plot among the emigrants to seize on the ship. The captain immediately ordered one half of them to be confined in the hold, but the next day those who remained on deck armed themselves with knives, belaying pins, pieces of wood, in short anything they could lay their hands on, and attacked the crew, who defended themselves with muskets and revolvers. The coolies then massed themselves on the forecastle and set fire to the vessel, hoping that the crew would set to work at the pumps to extinguish the flames. During that time they had also freed their comrades and murdered the few sailors they could get hold of. The captain, seeing what they were doing, ordered the boats to be lowered, and left the ship with the remainder of his men. Some sailors who remained on board with the doctor, the magazine man, and the interpreter, were unable to prevent the flames from reaching the fireworks, and the ship blew up, scattering the fragments of the mutineers in every direction under the very eyes of the escaped crew.

BRITISH INDIAN COOLIES FOR GUATEMALA.

India Office, London,
24th August, 1874.

SIR,—I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council, to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 14th inst., calling attention to a paragraph in the *Times* newspaper of Thursday the 13th idem, regarding Indian emigrants intended for Guatemala, and inquiring, on behalf of the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society, whether there is any Convention with the President of that Republic, authorising emigration thither from British India.

In reply, I am desired by the Marquis of

Salisbury to state for the information of the Society, that there is no such Convention, and that the word "Guatemala" in the *Times* paper is apparently a misprint; possibly Guadeloupe was intended—a French West Indian colony to which coolie immigration is permitted under the Convention of 1861 with France.

I am, SIR,
Your obedient servant,
LOUIS MALLET.

The Rev. BENJAMIN MILLARD, Secretary of the
British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society.

SALE OF CHINESE COOLIES IN PERU.

ACCORDING to the *Commercio* of Lima, some time ago there was a sale at the Hacienda de Talambo, consisting of

37 Mules,
30 Yokes of Oxen
40 Asses,
100 Mares,
600 Sheep,

and 123 CHINESE COOLIES !!

Also a chapel for reading mass. The buildings contain six galpones (closed sheds) for coolies, with IRON-GRATINGS, professedly for ventilation, but really to keep them imprisoned day and night when not driven out to work in the fields. Yet these are professed free men!! We trust the Chinese Commissioners will search into these things.

CHINA COOLIES IN PERU AND CUBA.

IN 1873 the China coolie trade to Cuba and Peru doubled. It is stated that the entire number of persons (all of the male sex!) exported from Macao to these two countries is about five hundred thousand. At present only one-third are alive. Thousands, in despair, have committed suicide. In order to arrest this perpetual occurrence a proprietor, cruelly refined, determined upon the following measure. He caused the bodies of those who had strangled themselves to be burnt by the other coolies, and the ashes to be carried away by the wind. This measure answered very well, for the Chinaman believes that he will not rise again in his own country if his body has been annihilated or mutilated.

TREATY BETWEEN PERU AND CHINA.

It is said that Captain Garia y Garcia, the Minister of Peru to China, has celebrated a treaty of friendship, commerce,

and navigation with the Government of Pekin; and that *free emigration of Chinese labourers to Peru will be permitted under the guarantee of this Republic for their humane and proper treatment.*

The treatment of Chinese coolies in Peru has been so disgraceful, that it is to be hoped there is not a word of truth in the above statement.

PROFESSOR VON HOLTZENDORFF'S OPINION ON INDEMNIFICATION TO COOLIE-HOLDERS IN CUBA AND PERU.

THE Chinese Commissioners are prosecuting their inquiries into the treatment of the China coolies in Cuba. If they are permitted access to the enslaved coolies, they will have overwhelming evidence of the horrible treatment they have to endure. We shall not be surprised to hear that the Commissioners recommend the immediate cancelling of the so-called contracts. This, indeed, has been anticipated by some of the planters, who are endeavouring to work on the fears of some of the people in those countries by demanding indemnification for the loss of the labour of the people whom they have wronged. This amount of compensation, in the shape of additional taxation to pay the wrong-doers, would not be trifling, and would alarm the taxpayers.

Compensation is out of the question; there is not the shadow of a right thereto. If compensation is due to any one, it is from the planter to the coolie. The following is the opinion of Professor Francis von Holtzendorff, the eminent German interpreter of international law at Munich, which is most valuable. He says:—

"Assuming that the coolie-trade is but a weakly-disguised crime of man-stealing by force or by fraud, committed by pretended and even officially-sealed contracts, and that in reality there is no difference between it and the slave-trade, there can be no doubt that the coolies, who are dragged away from their country in despite of all *international* right, have a *right* to ask their immediate freedom everywhere and at all times.

"There could not be raised the questions of an indemnification to the holders of the coolies even then, if certain South American countries should have favoured or tacitly tolerated that infamous abuse of the coolie trade. It *cannot* have remained unknown to those owners of the coolies by what means these have been pressed or

enticed away. They are equally guilty—co-culprits in the misdeeds that have been committed. Their relations to the coolie-trade, judicially considered, is that of the concealer who buys an object the dishonest acquisition of which he cannot but be clearly aware of.”

THE CHINESE COMMISSION TO CUBA AND PERU.

By our last advices we conclude that the Chinese Commissioners, to inquire into the condition of the Chinese coolies, are still at work in Cuba. They must, in order to gain a full knowledge of the enslaved Chinese, visit the various sugar plantations where they are located—have free and unrestricted communication with the coolies personally—and institute a searching inquiry respecting the thousands who have been maltreated.

In Peru their labours will be heavier than in Cuba, inasmuch as the field is much larger. To gain a correct and thorough knowledge of the state of the Chinese, the Commissioners will not only have to visit the cities. They will have here also, in a quiet way, without public notice, to go to the chacras, haciendas, railways, and other places, to see and learn for themselves the state of things. We trust that the British, German, and American Consuls, who have been instructed to render the Commission all the help in their power, will assist them in every possible way. We are watching the inquiry with deep interest, and shall look for the report with much anxiety.

CUBA.

WHILE in Spain the state of things is most deplorable, we are unable to report any improvement with regard to the condition of Cuba. The financial situation is daily growing worse. In addition to the new income-tax of 10 per cent., an extraordinary tax of 2½ per cent. is imposed on the value of city and country industries, commerce, arts and professions. An address presented to the Captain-General Concha by business men in Havannah, shows the sad condition of the island. It says:—

“In view of the frightful condition of financial affairs, which threatens the ruin of the country and menaces the authority of your Excellency, it is the duty of every good Spaniard to come to the aid of the Government with such resources as he can command. Gold to-day is quoted at 292, and will undoubtedly soon reach 1000 if speedy and supreme efforts are not made

to check the rise. Rates of Foreign exchange, like those of gold, are also going up definitely. This upward movement, if continued, will soon bring about general bankruptcy, and will make the cost of the necessities of life so high, that the people will be unable to endure it. The consequences of this deplorable state of things would be incalculable. It is the duty of all to try to prevent it. On this account, and for the above reasons, we ask for the imposition of a tax of 5 per cent. on the riches of the island, which are represented by landed property in city and country, and by commercial and banking institutions and others, to be paid quarterly for two years beginning with July 1, 1874. It is hoped that at the end of this period the war will be concluded, and there will be no further necessity for such extreme measures.”

The war in the island has now lasted nearly six years. Hopes have been cherished and promises made by the Spaniards, that the patriots would soon be crushed out, and the war closed. As yet, however, there is no prospect of the deadly struggle being brought to an end. The Captain-General has decided to meet the demands for the next campaign by issuing bonds to the amount of 3,000,000 dollars, at 8 per cent., to be funded in six months' time and secured on the income of the Havannah lottery.

The struggle continues most deadly. It is stated that the Captain-General has determined to take the offensive against the insurrectionists in a determined manner. Spanish troops numbering about 7,000 men, at Las Minas, have begun to move about in various directions, but the whereabouts of the insurrectionists is as yet unknown to them! A telegram has been sent by the Spanish Minister of War to the Governor of Cuba, that 12,000 soldiers, with a full complement of officers, will be sent from Spain to that island *as speedily as possible*; but seeing that every soldier is wanted in the mother country, it is improbable that any considerable force will be despatched very soon, though the slave power, in the interest of which the war is continued by the Spaniards, will do all it can to maintain the institution of slavery.

Meanwhile, in spite of the fearful sufferings of a six years' struggle, the spirit of the Cuban patriots remains unbroken, and the insurgents are resolved at any sacrifice to continue the struggle to the end. The more cruel the Spanish soldiers are in butchering their victims, the more resolute the Cubans are said to be to persevere till every person shall enjoy full personal and political freedom. General Maximo Gomez has crossed the Trocha at the head of 5,000 patriots, and Colonel Carlos M. Cespedes, the son of the late betrayed President, has arrived in America to obtain reinforcements.

Amidst all this the slave-holders make no movement to abolish slavery. Unless the parent State takes measures to meet the claims of the 350,000 African and 60,000 Chinese slaves, who are entitled to their liberty; to secure to the Cubans generally, equal and just social, political, and religious rights; and to put an end to the existing disgraceful state of things in that beautiful island, she must not be surprised to find that at last the civilised Powers of Europe and America will interfere, in the interests of humanity, to cause the present struggle to cease, and to guarantee to each his inhabitant rights.

PETITION TO THE HOUSE OF COMMONS ON CUBA.

On Thursday evening, August 6th, Mr. Ashley, the member for Poole, presented the following Petition to the House of Commons:—

TO THE HONOURABLE THE COMMONS OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND IN PARLIAMENT ASSEMBLED.

The petition of the undersigned, on behalf of the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society,

Sheweth—

That your Petitioners have at various times submitted to Her Majesty's Secretaries of Foreign Affairs, the Treaty claims of Great Britain, and the duties thereby imposed on Her Majesty's Government in their relations with Spain in respect to the slave-population in Cuba.

That in June, 1870—the civil war in Cuba having then lasted nearly two years—a deputation waited on Lord Clarendon to represent the views of the Society on this subject.

That in January, 1872—the civil war having continued for the space of four years—the Committee again renewed the expression of their views to the Earl of Granville, then Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

That your Petitioners have now learnt that Her Majesty's Government, in concert with other European powers, are about to interpose in the affairs of the mother country, with a view to terminate the brutalities which distinguish the civil war in Spain.

That your Petitioners, from information which they have from time to time received, are assured that the civil war, which has raged for a period of now six years in Cuba, is still being carried on with a degree of ferocity, and with brutalities perpetrated on a scale of magnitude which is as yet happily unparalleled in the parent country.

That already not fewer than 150,000 human beings have been immolated in this struggle, which is virtually for the maintenance of Slavery.

Your Petitioners therefore humbly entreat your Honourable House to pray Her Majesty that in any arrangements she may enter into with other Powers, for the pacification of Spain, she will, in virtue of those Treaty claims which are specially her own, insist on terminating the exterminating civil war which still rages in Cuba.

Your Petitioners, lastly, submit that no settlement of peace is now possible in Cuba which does not embrace measures which shall insure the complete emancipation of the slave population in that island.

And they pray Your Honourable House to take such measures as shall secure the objects desired.

And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

On behalf of the Committee of the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society,

JOSEPH COOPER,	} <i>Honorary Secretaries.</i>
EDMUND STURGE,	
ROBERT ALSOP,	

BENJ. MILLARD, *Secretary.*

27, New Broad St., August 4th, 1874.

FIJI.

THE OFFER OF CESSION TO THE BRITISH CROWN.

THE Report of Commodore Goodenough and Mr. Consul Layard, on the offer of the cession of the Fiji Islands to the British Crown, has been presented to Parliament. The Commissioners attended a number of meetings, both of natives and Europeans, to learn the sentiments of the community at large; and the result is that they recommend the annexation of the group to the British Crown. The offer of cession on the part of the king and chiefs is, however, clogged with a number of conditions, set forth in nineteen articles. Among other

things it is stipulated that the title and an annual allowance of £2,000, with the gift of £1,000 to purchase a vessel, shall be guaranteed to the King Cakubau; that annual allowances, amounting to about £3,400 per annum, shall be granted to various chiefs; that the British Government shall assume existing financial liabilities, amounting to £85,854 7s. 10d; that Fijian chiefs and people shall retain all existing private rights, real and personal; that the ruling chief of every tribe is to be recognised as the owner of the lands of his tribe and guardian of their rights and interests, and the people of the tribe are to be recognised as tenants of tribal lands, with hereditary right of occupation, subject always to rental obligations which shall and may be accepted by the chief in money, labour, or kind, as may be agreed between chief and people. It is calculated that there are about 450,000 acres of Crown lands.

On July 17th the Earl of Carnarvon, in the House of Lords, called the attention of the Legislature to the report, when he sketched the history of the formal proposal for the cession of these Islands from 1859 to the present time. In submitting the views of the Government on the whole subject as presented in the report of the Commissioners, his Lordship observed:—

“On this general review of the circumstances your Lordships will not be surprised to hear that it is the feeling of Her Majesty’s Government

THAT THEY CANNOT DECLINE THE DUTY OF
ACCEPTING THESE ISLANDS.

If they do not decline they accept, and it then becomes important to know how this is to be done. The view of Her Majesty’s Government is, that there is but one single condition on which the cession can be accepted. The condition is that in all material and essential respects

THE CESSION SHOULD BE ABSOLUTELY UN-
CONDITIONAL,

and] that we should have full freedom to administer the affairs of the islands. It would ill consort with the dignity of the Crown that conditions should be annexed to any such cession. I must mention that in the appendix to the report of the Commissioners there is a communication from Mr. Thurston, the so-called Prime Minister of Fiji, in which he specifies no less than seventeen conditions on which the cession was to be made. I will not go through these conditions in detail, but will simply say,

THE CONDITIONS PROPOSED ARE WHOLLY
IMPRACTICABLE,

and therefore Her Majesty’s Government are only prepared

TO ACCEPT AN UNCONDITIONAL CESSION
OF THE ISLANDS.

“With that view, while fully appreciating the exertions of the Commissioners, Her Majesty’s Government feel that we have now arrived at a new stage of these negotiations, and that we should hardly require these gentlemen to go back and conduct the negotiations to a final settlement. We therefore propose,

TO INSTRUCT SIR HERCULES ROBINSON, the Governor of New South Wales, to proceed at once to Fiji, restate the whole case, explain the difficulties in the way of cession on the terms proposed by Mr. Thurston, and place the matter fully, fairly, and candidly, before the chiefs and the white population. . . . I believe the difficulties when boldly faced will not be found very considerable, provided the cession comes to us untrammelled by unworkable conditions; and although I am quite aware of the magnitude of the task, I shall not be afraid to encounter it.”

SLAVERY IN FIJI.

On the evening of August 4, Mr. W. McArthur brought the subject of the annexation of Fiji under the consideration of the House of Commons.

The debate shows that, so far as slavery in Fiji is concerned, there is danger of two serious errors being made. First, Sir C. Dilke’s amendment speaks of “domestic slavery,” as if that were the only form of forced servitude existing in Fiji. Prædial slavery exists there and is upheld by the planters who have their imported—in most cases kidnapped—hands attached to their plantations, on many of which they are driven to their work in the field early in the morning,—kept at work all day,—who are held in awe by the whip, the chief instrument of punishment in the island, and in some instances by a stand of arms ready for use in case of an *émeute*. True there are kind-hearted masters in Fiji, who desire the good of their hands, but so there have been among the cotton and sugar growers in the Southern States, and in the West Indies, when others perpetrated outrages on their people.

In the second place, let it not be assumed that annexation to the British Crown will be followed as a *matter of course* by the suppression of kidnapping in Polynesia, or by the discontinuance of forced servitude in Fiji. Annexation will doubtless afford *suitable opportunities and facilities* to put down slavery in Fiji. But unless the British Government are keenly sensitive to their responsibility to put it down,—much more so than they have shown themselves to be on the West Coast of Africa settlements and protectorate;—unless statesmen and philanthropists are unceasing in their

efforts to purge the islands from the system which now obtains, *these evils will continue to prevail notwithstanding the annexation of the Fiji group of islands to the British Crown.* We cannot be too earnest in pressing these points on the attention of all who are anxious to wipe out the foul blot which at present rests on the land.

THE CHINESE IN CUBA.*

THE STORY OF CHUN YOUNG HIN'S SUFFERINGS
AS A SLAVE IN CUBA.

DEAR SIR,—The following is the story of one of my countrymen who arrived in Boston recently from Cuba, where he was held in bondage by Panto Francisco, the owner of a sugar plantation, situated in the country, a few hours' journey back from Cienfuegos. I have questioned him closely, and am convinced of the truth of his narrative. I give it just as it was related by him, suppressing only the name of the barque on which he arrived and the captain who kindly assisted him. This Chinaman was placed on shore by the captain, and being unable to speak English, was taken by a policeman to the store of Ar-Show, the Chinese tea merchant, who kindly took him in charge. His appearance serves to prove the truth of his statement:—

STORY OF CHUN YOUNG HING.

"My name is Chun Young Hing. In the year 1869, the eleventh moon and the 18th day, while I was sitting in the streets of Canton, surrounded by a party of my friends, one of my countrymen named Ar-kin came up, and told us that we could all obtain work in Amoy, and that if we would go there with him he would pay all of the expense. I, with many others went with him, and when we arrived at Amoy he told us that he was disappointed in obtaining work for us, but if we would go over the water he would pay us each 10 dols. a month. We consulted together, and as most of us had no money to return to Canton, we accepted his offer, and at once went on board of a French barque lying in the harbour. As soon as we climbed over the side of the ship we were commanded to go below between decks. Those who did not go willingly were thrown down, and the hatches were closed. We had lain there about two days when we felt the barque move. In the meantime we had counted our number, and found that there were 368 on board. While on the sea we were given plenty to eat, and in about three months we arrived at Havana in the island of Cuba. While there many men came on board, and we were led out and examined and our strength tested. The man who had us in

charge delivered ten of our number to some men, fifty to others, and one man took 100. If any of us were unwilling to go we were kicked and told that we must go and do as he said, or else go out on the streets and starve. A man named Panto Francisco made arrangements to take fifty to work on his plantation. I went with this number, and as soon as he had paid our master some money, he placed us on the cars, and we went to Cienfuegos. Upon arriving there we were driven back into the mountains, and at about eight o'clock we arrived at a large house surrounded by trees. We were at once placed in log huts, and told that we must sleep on the floor, which we did as best we could. At 3 o'clock the next morning we were driven out to the sugar plantation and told that we must cut cane. We worked until 8 A.M., when we had some potatoes and Indian corn to eat. After eating we were driven back, and then worked until 8 in the evening, when we were allowed to rest and eat supper. We did not have anything to eat between 8 A.M. and 8 P.M. During the busy season we went out after eating supper and worked until 10.30. We then had four and a half hours' rest, and were compelled to work again. When we were at work we were watched continually by a driver, who, with a long whip in his hand, would whip behind, and if any one lagged he would receive fifty lashes. If any of us were sick and unable to work we were whipped, and if we were unable to get up we were left in the hot sun until night, when we were carried in by our comrades. We were not allowed to speak to each other in our native tongue, and many of us did not even know the names of the others. On a Sunday, when we were given a short time to enjoy ourselves, I, with others, went for a walk in the woods, and I did not return until one half hour after the others. For this offence I was tied to a tree and received 100 blows. My body was so bruised that I could not go to work next morning. I was then whipped again and compelled to go out to work. My body shows the marks of that whipping yet. At one time one of my comrades ran away into the woods, and when he was caught he was three times beaten, and then compelled to wear two large iron balls, which were chained to his legs. He had to work with these chained to him, and if he did not keep up with the others he was beaten by the driver. Many times we did not have enough to eat, and as a general thing we were used worse than the negroes, for the masters said that while they owned the negroes for life, they owned us for eight years only. Panto Francisco, my master, had 150 Chinamen in his employ. Part of this number were working on a new contract, having served their eight years. I learned that when their term had expired they had no money, and were compelled to make a new contract for a number of years or starve, for no one would hire them by the month, it being contrary to the custom of the owners of the plantations. Not one in twenty-five of the Chinamen at

* From the *New York Times*.

work in Cuba ever returns to China, for if they are strong enough to survive their toils for six or seven years, the last year or two they are worked night and day without rest, and in a short time are able to work no longer. All hope is given up, and many die. Those who survive find that the little money they had saved to return has been used to pay for food and care while sick, and they have no alternative but to make a new contract. During my five years' slavery I was able to save only about 35 dols. About a month ago I escaped and ran into the woods early in the morning before the hour of work while the driver was absent. I wandered about for five days, and was able to proceed only at night. Many times at night I was compelled to stop and hide on account of the barking of the dogs. I had nothing but berries and fruit to eat, and at last found the water and entered Cienfuegos, and while walking on the wharves I met a captain, who took what money I had (32 dols.) and hid me on his brig."

Very respectfully,
WONG CHUN FOO.

OBITUARY.

It is with deep regret we have to record the loss of another faithful friend of the Anti-Slavery cause.

CHARLES GILPIN, formerly a member of the Anti-Slavery Committee, and many years member of Parliament for Northampton, after a suffering illness of several months, died at his residence in Bedford Square on the 9th ultimo.

It was through his exertions, and on his motion in the House of Commons, that the Committee on the East African Slave-trade was obtained in 1871, which has led to some most important results.

His genial frankness, and the readiness with which he was at all times ready to serve the cause of oppressed and suffering humanity, have left on the minds of his Anti-Slavery colleagues a deep sense of the loss they, in common with the managers and friends of many of the other Philanthropic Societies of the metropolis, have sustained.

POLYNESIAN LABOURERS IN FIJI.

THERE is a large number (about 1,550) of Polynesian labourers in Fiji, who ought to have been returned to their homes, but they are detained against their will. Some are said to be two years overdue, some ten months. It is calculated that the planters owe about £20,000 for wages alone! The employers, however, plead that they have no money to pay the wages due, or return their hands!! Meanwhile the Polynesians are defrauded and detained from their homes. We are thankful to learn that that H. B. M. Consul is looking after the interests of these people, many of whom have been kidnapped by British vessels and British crews.

INTERNATIONAL ANTI-SLAVERY COMMITTEE OF THE UNIVERSAL ALLIANCE.

THE International Anti-Slavery Committee of the Universal Alliance, a body having for its object to *promote international works of humanity by means of diplomatic action*, respectfully submits to the consideration of all civilised Powers:

1. That a diplomatic declaration against slavery was subscribed at Vienna on the 8th of February, 1815, by the Plenipotentiaries of the Great European Powers, under the title of "*Déclaration des 8 Cours relative à l'abolition universelle de la Traite de Nègres*," which declaration was re-affirmed by the resolutions "relative to the complete and definitive abolition of the slave-trade," adopted by the Congress of Verona on the 28th of November, 1822, by the Plenipotentiaries of Austria, France, Great Britain, Prussia, and Russia.

2. That the steps taken in consequence of that declaration by Great Britain and other Signatory Powers have met with success, and the universal approbation of all civilised nations, some of which, although not parties to the Treaty of Vienna or the Conference of Verona, have since suppressed slavery in their dominions.

3. That the principles avowed by the Governments represented at Vienna in 1815, and at Verona in 1822, have been extended in their spirit beyond the question—then most prominent—of negro-slavery, and have been applied to other conditions and races of men—as, for instance, to the emancipation of the serfs in Russia and the abolition of the slave-trade in Khiva.

4. That the Anti-Slavery Committee of the Universal Alliance, encouraged by the declaration of the said contracting Powers "*that their obligation will not be considered as fulfilled till a complete success has crowned*

their efforts," respectfully wish to bring to the attention of the civilised Powers that certain circumstances still exist which warrant the revival and extension of the above-named conventions.

5. That the facts which the aforesaid Committee more especially desire to bring to notice are as follows:—

a. Turkey continues reluctantly to countenance slavery in her dominions.

b. The recent annexation of territories, hitherto used by private slave-dealers for purposes of kidnapping, to a slave-holding country like Egypt, means the practical extension, and not the suppression of slavery, which, however, is the avowed intention of the Khedive.

c. The slave-trade has recently increased southward from Abyssinia to the Red Sea, and also in the Lake Tchad district, having an out-flow near Tripoli.

d. The present system of the emigration of coolies from China to America is practically only too often another name for slavery, whilst the emigration of coolies from India requires continued watchfulness.

e. Various forms of slavery are practised under the pretence of entering into voluntary contracts with the kidnapped natives from the South Sea Islands.

f. Slavery is not entirely abolished in countries over which Great Britain has influence.

g. Slavery still exists in Central Asia, in the territories of the Amir of Cabul, on the Eastern Coasts of Africa, and in the interior of that continent.

h. Since the signature of the new Slave-trade Treaty by the Sultan of Zanzibar the exportation of slaves from Mozambique to Madagascar has increased.

i. There are one million and a half of slaves in Brazil.

j. In Cuba there are 350,000 slaves, and also 60,000 Chinese coolies, whose condition is understood to be as bad as that of the negro slaves.

6. The International Anti-Slavery Committee of the Universal Alliance do not profess, in these statements, to have exhausted the subject of the extent and variety of the state of slavery and of the slave-trade, and do not presume to indicate the details of the action which, for the furtherance of their great aim, the civilised Governments may think fit to adopt.

7. In order to consider such details, it is proposed that a semi-diplomatic Conference, composed of official delegates from all the Governments, meet in London, in order to take into their consideration the means which should be adopted to fulfil the pledges of the Declaration of Vienna and the Resolutions of Verona.

London, March 31st, 1874.

* We should have preferred the word "reluctantly" omitted.—ED.

SLAVERY RE-ESTABLISHED IN PORTO RICO.

IN former numbers we have quoted the testimony of the highest authorities in Porto Rico to the excellent conduct of the freedmen since the passing of the Act of immediate emancipation in the early part of 1873.

In the Blue-book just published we have the report of Consul Cowper, who states that the emancipation of the slaves in Porto Rico, though it took place under unfavourable circumstances has proved an entire success.

In reference to the subject of labour the Consul writes,—“The agricultural labourers remain as before, cultivating the estates, nor do they demand extravagant wages. Almost everything remains unchanged, the *libertos* work as well and as continuously as the freedmen did or do, but not so continuously as they did before emancipation; that was not to be expected; but they work from six o'clock in the morning to six in the evening, for 2s. a day with breakfast, to 2s. 6d. without it. I hear no new complaints of want of labour; where it was scarce before emancipation it remains so; where it was abundant before it is still so. Everybody, hitherto the most rampant defenders of slavery, have been metamorphosed into Abolitionists, and upon the fox-who-lost-his-tail principle, declare that it is a shame that the slaves in Cuba are not freed.”

Nothing, surely, could be more satisfactory than these results of the Abolition Act, which, be it remembered, was the work of Señor Castelar and his fellow-ministers, and was adopted by the unanimous vote of the Madrid Cortes.

Now, if we are correctly informed, all this is to be changed. The Act of the Cortes is to be repudiated and dishonoured by means of a *reglamento* of the present reactionary and pro-slavery government of Marshal Serrano and his colleagues, whose real object in this matter is the maintenance of slavery in Cuba.

The *reglamento* decrees that the slave-owners shall fix, both the rate of wages and the hours of work, and that the blacks shall no longer be able to choose their own masters.

It may be recollected that when the Porto Rico Act was passed a Bill was also prepared for the abolition of slavery in Cuba, which Bill we have the strongest reason to believe would also have passed the Cortes had the British Government acknowledged the Government of Spain at that time.

The Government of the United States not only acknowledged that Government

but its excellent representative General Sickles rendered it a cordial and generous support with the especial object of promoting the abolition of slavery both in Cuba and Porto Rico. But the late British Cabinet withheld its sympathy, and to this, as we believe, may largely be attributed the continuance both of slavery in Cuba, and the inducement to re-establish it in Porto Rico.

The slaves in Cuba and the freedmen in Porto Rico are in a certain sense wards of Great Britain. No one understands this better than Earl Derby, the present able and excellent head of the Foreign Office. We trust the matter will claim his Lordship's prompt and serious attention.

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LONDON: Printed by RICHARD BARRETT & SONS, of Grove Lane, Camberwell, in the Parish of Camberwell, in the County of Surrey; and published by ELLIOT STOCK, 62, Paternoster Row, E.C., London; and at the Office of the Society, No. 27, New Broad Street, in the Parish of St. Botolph, Bishopsgate, in the City of London, OCTOBER 1, 1874.

Registered for transmission abroad.